

# Did You Know?

Fortunately, some things don't change.

## INSIDE:



A year's worth of  
mobilization activity  
at Camp Roberts.  
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The community rallies  
to support troops at  
Camp Roberts.  
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Camp Roberts  
Museum showcases  
desert warfare  
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# Then and Now...



*Photos by Franco Federici*

# 65 Years of Service and Counting

In the years that followed, Camp Roberts was called upon from time-to-time to provide training for small numbers of active Army soldiers

Although the times, technology, weapons and the world have changed radically over 65 years, the basic mission of Camp Roberts has not: to teach the Warriorfighter in the soldier skills he or she needs to survive. After 65 years, it is a job

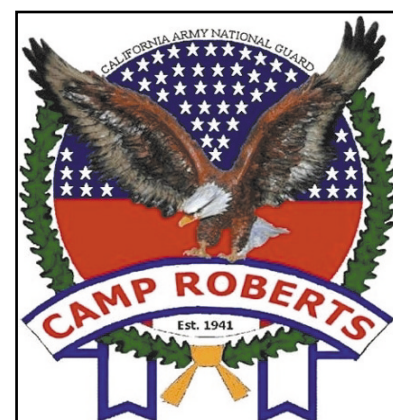


*Contributed by Camp Roberts Museum*

# The U.S. Army: a Historical Perspective

It is 1940 America and the US Army is a shell of its former self, being left to a small standing army of some 100,000 soldiers using broom sticks as weapons and cardboard mock-ups as vehicles to train with. Our government policy of isolationism has led us to turn a blind eye to world events and the massive oceans that separate us from our European and Asian antagonists gives us a false hope of security. The "war to end all wars" had passed and we won. How can there be another? Then a surprise attack against the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, and America finds itself in another

The training philosophy of the 1940's was focused on the massing of lethal fires at the right place and time in order to defeat the enemy and establish the conditions for a political resolution and a cessation of hostilities against enemy nation-states. Our training was based on the equipment of the day. Line-of-sight weapons dominated. World War II combat engagements occurred within a few hundred yards to within feet of the combat soldier. Training included hand-to-hand combat and focus on Close Quarters Combat (CQC). Today, the Army's ability to find and attack enemy forces from miles away with pin-point accuracy has reduced the requirement for



 FROM THE  
COMMANDER



# Welcome to Camp Roberts

Thank you for supporting your community and Camp Roberts. We appreciate the community's support and I especially want to thank the Paso Robles Press for this opportunity to tell our story."

**JOHN F. SMITH**  
COL, FA, CA ARNO



*All in a day's (or a year's) work*

Due to physical size, merchandising policies and manufacture's shortages, some stores may be unable to stock all items shown. However, most items can be ordered by your Ace Dealer and a "Rain Check" can be issued assuring you of the sale price featured. Not responsible for printing errors.



# NBC Today Show Features Camp Roberts

Lisa Norris  
 CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Camp Roberts and its collection of recovered wallets were the subjects of a recent feature on the American Story segment of the NBC morning news program, Today.

Reporter Bob Dotson and a crew from NBC News told the story of the wallets that have been discovered in the heating ducts of buildings being demolished over the years and of the return of one of the wallets to the family of the late Staff Sgt. Perfecto Pacheco-Ramos, a Korean War veteran who served as a cook at Camp Roberts in the mid-1950's.

Perfecto's son, Jose, and his daughter Lilly, learned of the recovery of their father's wallet, which was unusually full of personal papers and documents, from a friend of Jose's, who had read about the camp's wallet finds in an article in the Los Angeles Times. They later flew to California to claim their father's wallet and visit the camp at which he had served, and were met by the NBC crew.

More than 30 wallets, most from the World War II and Korean War eras, have been found over the years at the camp and most all of them have been returned to the veteran or his surviving family by Lt. Gary Huff of the Fort Hunter Liggett Police Department. A more recent article in the Times showcased five more wallets in the care of the Camp Roberts Museum and resulted in two claims within a week. Only two wallets remain unclaimed.

It is believed that most of the wallets were stolen from soldiers as a crime of opportunity around pay-

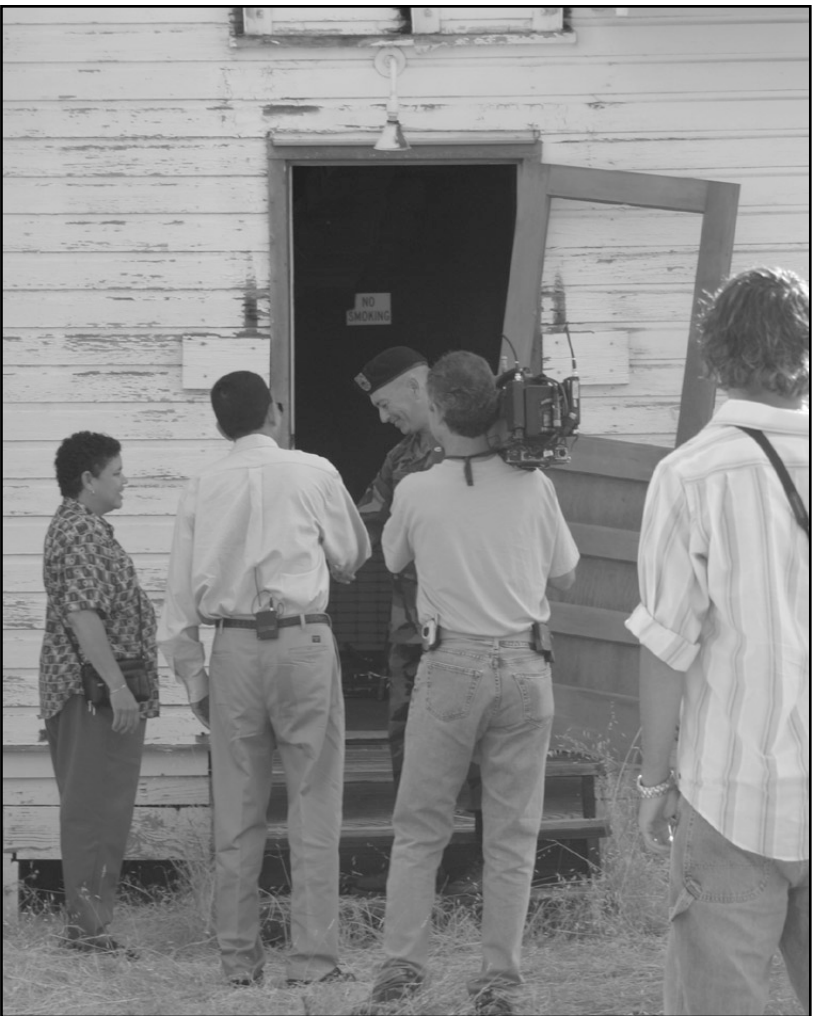


Photo by Franco Federi ci  
**Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake presents Jose Pacheco and his sister, Lilly, with their father's long lost wallet. Jose and Lilly traveled to Camp Roberts from Texas.**

day in a time when the Army paid soldiers in cash.

The wallet would be stolen in an unguarded moment, the cash removed, and the remaining potentially-incriminating evidence "ditched" with an easy overhead shot into the nearby and very con-

venient heating ducts that ran down the center of the World War II-era barracks.

The Museum has an excellent example of such a wallet on display that was donated to the Museum by the family of the veteran who had his wallet stolen here.

for both the German and Japanese forces. Our training in both the 1940's and 1990's did not fully prepare us for insurgency operations we are faced with in Iraq and Afghanistan: a numerically inferior force and technically disadvantaged, yet very imaginative enemy who has been proven to be extremely adaptive. The expense of fielding large formations, such as in the 1940's, would be cost prohibitive today, but with our years of research and development we don't have to field as large an army. Our training reflects this as we move from paper maps to computer maps and systems that provide instantaneous information for leaders to base decisions on.

Today's soldier that is new to warfare has an inadvertent advantage gained through non-military technology such as video games, the Internet (former military technology), and satellite communications, to name a few. Today's soldier has developed eye/hand coordination on an unparalleled scale allowing the use of faster and more accurate weapons systems. Today's soldiers are more informed both on and off the battlefield. However, the soldiers of the 1940's did not need these advantages as common soldier weapons such as the M1 rifle with iron sights, fragmentary grenades, the M4 "Sherman" tank with a 75mm main gun, and an anti-tank

bazooka did not require a highly-developed eye/hand coordination. In addition, the flow of battle was slow enough to allow for communication limitations. The modern soldier is equipped with M4 carbine rifles with Close Combat Optics that enhance targeting, flash and fragmentary grenades, M1A2 main battle tanks with 120mm main guns, and a multitude of anti-tank missiles at his/her disposal. One definite advantage is the ability to operate effectively at night through night vision technology, which enhances combat effectiveness at the individual soldier level.

The core values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage have remained the same since the professional inception of the American military as a profession. It is these values that create the common bond between Americans from throughout the country and form them into the "Army of One."

Although technology and the way the army trains has changed, its mission has not, to defend our culture and way of life against those who would impose their will upon us. We remain a tool for our elected leadership to use when diplomacy fails in order to re-establish the conditions for diplomacy to resume. Our soldiers are the best because we train to be the best.

# Local leaders reflect on Camp Roberts' importance CONGRESSMAN BILL THOMAS

Veterans Day serves as time to reflect on the many sacrifices made by millions of Americans so that we may all enjoy the freedoms we have in our everyday lives. Our nation's veterans made a solemn commitment to the United States and we are indebted to them for their service and dedication. We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude.

As we honor the many generations of veterans that have defended our freedoms, we also honor those who currently wear the military uni-

form and are currently stationed thousands of miles away from those they love. I thank the troops at Camp Roberts, which has a long and storied history in the defense of our nation.

Individuals at Camp Roberts from World War II to the present Global War on Terrorism have voluntarily placed their lives in danger to promote peace and freedom around the world. We as Americans offer our thanks and our pledge to never forget their heroism and sacrifice for our country.

-Congressman Bill Thomas



# STATE SENATOR ABEL MALDONADO

Since its establishment 65 years ago as one of the world's largest military training facilities, more than one million servicemen and servicewomen have called Camp Roberts their home at one time or another.

Throughout its distinguished history, Camp Roberts has played a vital role in the defense of our country, as well as serving as a valuable member of our community.

While the day-to-day activities of Camp Roberts have changed over the years, the core mission has always remained the same: to ensure

that our brave men and women in uniform receive the best possible training.

The soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who have come and gone through the gates of Camp Roberts have traveled the globe in defense of freedom, from the battles of World War II to today's conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Today, many of our friends and loved ones, serving in California's National Guard, Army Reserve and Marines, continue to arrive at Camp Roberts for their military training.

That is why it is so important that we not forget the sacrifices they

are making in the defense of our nation, our communities, and our families.

Therefore, on this Veterans' Day, on behalf of me and my family, I wish to offer my sincere appreciation to our gallant men and women in uniform, including those who, for a time, called Camp Roberts their home.

Through their selfless devotion, their dedication, their hard work, and their sacrifices, America continues to be blessed as "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Thank you and God Bless.  
 -Senator Abel Maldonado

# MAYOR FRANK MECHAM

Camp Roberts has always been considered a part of our community. From WWII to today, the men and women that have been assigned to this base have been an integral part of our daily lives.

They work, shop, recreate and their children are a part of our schools. It is important to recognize that Camp Roberts is not only a part of our community family, but it is also a major player in our economy.

Over the years Camp Roberts has contributed to our city in a variety of ways in peace time and in

time of war.

The City of Paso Robles recognizes the benefit of maintaining a solid and positive relationship with those that protect and defend this great nation. As Camp Roberts expands its responsibilities and its capabilities, the City of Paso Robles stands ready and willing to assist them in any way.

We salute those men and women at Camp Roberts, the civilian men and women that work there, and continue to welcome them into our community.

Respectfully,  
 -Mayor Frank Mecham



# How to get a job at Camp Roberts

Maj. Staci-Ann Kato  
 CAMP ROBERTS PERSONNEL AND RESOURCE  
 MANAGEMENT

Do you need money? Are you looking for a job? Were you always interested in working at Camp Roberts or for the California Army National Guard? We have jobs for you! We have several types of employment with a variety of occupations and classifications available.

Listed are websites to help you get started. Check it out!

Join the National Guard  
[www.1800goguard.com](http://www.1800goguard.com)

**Technician/ Active Guard and Reserve (AGR)**  
[www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/job-main.html](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cahr/job-main.html)

**Active Duty Special Work**  
[www.portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/caot/positions/default.aspx](http://www.portal.ca.ngb.army.mil/sites/caot/positions/default.aspx)

**Counter Drug Task Force**  
[www.calguard.ca.gov/cdtf/jobs/](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cdtf/jobs/)

**State Active Duty**  
[www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/sad](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/sad)

**State Civil Service**  
[www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/scs/](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/casp/jobs/scs/)

index.htm  
 Additional employment opportunities outside of the California Army National Guard:

**Troops to Teachers**  
[www.ed.gov/programs/troops/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/troops/index.html)

**Helmets to Hardhats**  
[www.helmetstohardhats.org/home.asp](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/home.asp)

**California Employment Development Department Transition Assistance Program**  
[www.edd.ca.gov/eddv.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/eddv.htm)

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# Veteran's Day Ceremony

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2005, 11:00 AM

at the

Paso Robles District Cemetery



Flags on grave markers placed by the American Legion Post 50 & VFW Post 10965. Refreshments served by the Board of Trustees of the PRDC. Sound by Clifford Munk

**Fly Over**  
 Estrella War Birds

**Master of Ceremonies**  
 John Crisali, Commander VFW Post 10965

**Invocation**  
 Reverend Jim Damewood  
 Plymouth Congregational Church

**Remarks**  
 Rosie Flynn  
 Cemetery Office Manager

**Welcome**  
 Tom Harrington

**Songs**  
 by Laurie Valaau

**Guest Speaker**  
 General Muggelberg, Retired

**Placing of the Wreaths**  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Furster  
 American Legion Post 50  
 Jim Grant & Sherry Reeger VFW Post 10965 & Aux.

**Closing Prayer**  
 Pastor Don Smith  
 Christian Life Center

**Honor Guard**  
 VFW Post 10965, American Legion Post 50  
 TAPS - Ward Clark, VFW Post 10965



# Army Converting to New Field Uniform

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake  
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

North County residents, long-familiar with seeing military personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force in their "Battle Dress Uniform" (BDU) in its darker "woodland camouflage," increasingly familiar with Army soldiers in their lighter, sandier colored "Desert Combat Uniform" (DCU), and even the occasional Marine in their distinctive "digital print," are now beginning to see a new uniform look: the "Army Combat Uniform" (ACU).

Introduced last June during ceremonies celebrating the Army's birthday, the ACU is a uniform that was designed with extensive consultation with its Non-Commissioned Officer's corps, the sergeants that comprise the Army's "middle management."

Three versions and 10,000 sets of the ACU were extensively field tested by members of the elite Stryker Brigade under combat conditions in Iraq and at Army training centers across the U.S. before their final design was approved.

The camouflage pattern is perhaps the most striking change in the Army's newest uniform. In addition to adapting a digitally-created pattern first introduced by the Marine Corps, the ACU is further distinguished by not having any black in its camouflage pattern, a first for Army camouflage uniforms. Black is not a color commonly found in nature and it is a color that immediately catches the eye, according to Sgt. 1st Class Jeff Myhre of the Army's Clothing and Individual Equipment office.

The colors selected for the ACU are also different than the colors selected by the Marine Corps.

"The color scheme in the ACU capitalizes on the environments that we operate in," Myhre said. "The current colors on the ACU are green-woodland, grey-urban environments and sand brown-desert. The pattern is not a 100-percent solution in every environment, but a good solution across the board."

The ACU will allow one uniform to be worn in all theaters of operation, eliminating the need for the Army to issue the DCU to soldiers deploying to desert combat zones as well as eliminate the need and expense for soldiers to maintain two separate combat uniforms.

Another immediately-noticeable change is the "Mandarin-style" collar that can be folded-up to cover the neck when worn with body armor to



Camp Roberts Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Keith Lochner wears the Army Combat Uniform with "patrol cap." While the beret will be the normal headgear worn with the ACU, local commanders may direct wearing of the "patrol cap," especially in field training conditions.

not only eliminate the pressure of a shirt collar being pressed into the skin under the weight of the body armor, but also to reduce chaffing of the neck caused by the body armor and equipment worn over the top of it. The collar is worn down off the neck like a conventional shirt collar when body armor is not being worn.

Patches, tabs, and tags are affixed to the uniform using Velcro, allowing them to be removed before laundering to increase the life of the attachment, and eliminating the cost of sewing the attachments to the uniform.

The individual's insignia of rank, previously on the collar of the BDU and DCU, are now a single cloth tab in the middle of the shirt. Officers, who previously wore the branch insignia of their specialty, such as Infantry, Field Artillery, Armor, etc, no longer wear branch insignia on the ACU.

Boots worn with ACU are the brown combat type already issued with the DCU. Soldiers will enjoy time and cost savings with both the brown combat boot and the ACU as

the boots, with their rough leather exterior cannot be polished, while the ACU is made of wrinkle-resistant material that is not to be starched, allowing it to be washed like conventional clothing.

The Army is presently issuing the ACU to members of the active component. National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers are expected to have the ACU issued to them by the end of 2007, although the uniform is available as an optional purchase by those soldiers who wish to do so.

The familiar BDU will not be completely going away, however. Members of the California State Military Reserve, the reserve component of the California National Guard, are presently distinguished only by their "California" nametape instead of the "U. S. Army" nametape worn by the active Army, Army Reserve, and active National Guard, will be wearing the BDU for the foreseeable future.

Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs, Army News Service, contributed to this story.



Veteran Joe Fraccola personally delivering decks of playing cards to troops of the 351st Civil Affairs Command, USAR, one the eve of their deployment to Iraq. To date, Mr. Fraccola has collected 67,635 decks of cards.

## Multi-functional Entertainment Device Provided to Deploying Soldiers

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake  
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

A combat veteran who never forgot the kindness of strangers who sent "care packages" during a war that ended 60 years ago and remembers a simple luxury still enjoyed by soldiers today, is "passing it forward" to soldiers training at Camp Roberts.

When Joe Fraccola of Gold River, Calif., a small town near Sacramento, saw troops becoming involved in Operation Enduring Freedom and saw the conditions under which the troops were serving, he decided to help in his own way—providing the troops with an entertainment device. One that was light, easy to carry in a combat ruck, easy to operate, required no batteries, didn't jam if dust or sand got into it, and provided multiple playing options.

### PLAYING CARDS

If anyone should understand what today's soldiers experience and appreciate the fact that being in a combat zone can mean long hours of tedious work, punctuated by moments of sheer terror, it would be Fraccola. A "combat engineer" in the Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, his involvement in that war ended one day on a Pacific island when enemy fighter planes attacked his base.

Seeking cover behind a vehicle, when the driver of another moving vehicle jumped out and fled for cover, Fraccola was pinned between the two, leaving him with permanent disabilities that still trouble him all these years later.

No longer able to serve in the military directly, Fraccola went on to a career as a civilian employee of the Air Force, even doing a "hitch" in Vietnam for more than two years as a radar systems advisor. He spent his life after civil service helping non-profit organizations with their public relations and fundraising efforts. He became active in, and eventually a life member of, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As part of his "Project Enduring Freedom," Fraccola collected over 50,000 decks of 'retired' playing cards from casinos. He later added dice and undeliverable magazines from local post offices to his shipping effort. However, the work of gathering and coordinating shipping of such a vast amount of material was exhausting for the then-78-year-old disabled veteran. Fraccola declared his work done when the last 40,700-plus decks of cards shipped to a USO warehouse in Maryland in 2003.

However, as they say, you can't keep a good man down. In Fraccola's case, you can't keep a good man in retirement, either.

Fraccola, who will be 82 this

coming July, has already raised 5,000 decks of playing cards and furnished them to the California Military Department headquarters. Learning that Camp Roberts is where California Army National Guard soldiers go to train for mobilization, he raised 5,000 more decks from Artichoke Joe's, a casino in San Bruno, and Cache Creek Casino, an Indian gaming resort northwest of Sacramento. He then drove them to Camp Roberts, presenting more than 400 decks to the soldiers of the 352nd Civil Affairs Command, an Army Reserve unit training at Camp Roberts. The remaining cards will be stored at Camp Roberts and distributed through soldier support activities to future units processing through the base.

For his troubles, Fraccola only asks for the pleasure of the opportunity to provide a little "creature comfort" to a soldier, a comfort he can still remember 60 years later. "A lot of them will be deployed to austere conditions," he says. "These donations will enhance a continuing success in providing some pleasure for the men and women away from home."

Fraccola's "bonus" for this trip was a smile of appreciation or a "thank you," and an exchange of handshakes between someone who is going—and someone who can appreciate what they are going to do.

## Help name the new Oak Grove

Camp Roberts will soon begin planting the seedlings of a new Oak Grove on the installation. This grove will be along the installation's frontage on Highway 101 and will be part of a new green belt with the completion of demolition in the 1000 and 2000 barracks areas.

We want your help in naming this grove. Please submit your ideas not later than December 15th to:

Camp Roberts Headquarters

Lisa Norris, Bldg 109

Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000

Entries will be presented to the Camp Roberts Beautification Committee and a selection presented to the Commander.

## Hunting and Fishing at Camp Roberts

A Camp Roberts permit and California State license tags and stamps are required to hunt at Camp Roberts. The total participants for the 2005 10-day hunt in Aug./Sept. was 1,257; significantly up from 2004. There were 23 deer harvested, five pigs, 25 rabbits and 2,778 doves; twice as many doves taken than last year.

There are still several hunts remaining this year. See schedule below:

### November Hunt:

NOV 19-20 for turkey, quail, waterfowl, dove, pig, and rabbit. Hours 5:30 am to 6:00 pm.

### Holiday Hunt:

DEC 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 and DEC 27-31 for rabbit, pig, quail, waterfowl, pigeon, and dove (Please check California State regulations for season dates for allowable game species). Hours are 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.

It is the hunter's and angler's responsibility to know the applicable California State regulations for hunting and fishing.

Permits are available for sale during hunting and fishing periods at the wildlife check station at Gate 3, located near the East Garrison exit from Highway 101. Schedules, maps, and opening day reservation forms can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope, along with your request, to the address listed below or by visiting the website. Hunters and anglers MUST register at the check station every day and MUST also turn in registration forms with harvest results at the close of EACH DAY.

For more information, contact Camp Roberts at the taped information line, 238-8167 or visit [www.calguard.ca.gov/cprbts](http://www.calguard.ca.gov/cprbts) and click on the link to environmental, hunting and fishing.

**NOTE:** Hunting and Fishing may be closed on short notice due to military operations. Call ahead for possible changes. Unless indicated, no reservations are required.



Courtesy Camp Roberts Environmental Office



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EVERYDAY





Camp Roberts Public Works Carpenters Bobby Holmes and Joe Klein, both from Paso Robles, finish the new roof on the Front Gate guard shack.

## Camp Roberts Public Works

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake  
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

They are the Directorate with the largest of nearly everything on Camp Roberts: largest staff, largest budget, largest fleet of vehicles, and have largest collection of tools and supplies. They are involved in seven of the 10 pages of the Commander's Strategic Plan. They bring in and distribute electricity and gas, and handle the camp's water needs from "cradle-to-grave," pumping out of the ground, purifying it, storing it, distributing it, collecting the waste water and treating it before it leaves the camp.

Yet the mission of the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) is comparatively simple, according to its Director, Lt. Col. Kevin Brown: "Whatever it takes to keep the California National Guard aggressively training."

More recently, the mission was briefly expanded to include preparations to receive up to 3,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Although it was eventually decided to keep the displaced civilians closer to their homes in the Gulf States, the DPW was already "decisively engaged," with crews checking all the buildings and areas to ensure they were in satisfactory condition for their proposed inhabitants. Although it was substantially the same processes the DPW staff goes through to prepare to receive a unit for training, training requirements are known well in advance with preparation and maintenance scheduled over a period of time—with Hurricane Katrina, there would have been no time for a scheduled effort.

When Camp Roberts was constructed at the beginning of World War II, it was originally only intended to serve for five years. SIXTY-five years later, it still is going, but like people its age, it needs considerably more maintenance than it did when it was younger.

Constructed of the finest "old-growth" hardwoods that were kiln-dried, a material no longer available and process no longer done these days, and assembled by skilled craftsmen, Camp Roberts' buildings started with a "hard body" that has made it resistant to insects such as termites, but is in a constant battle with other ravages of age: dry rot and a building's version of "baldness," the loss of shingles and roofing damage.

The camp's "circulation" systems are comprised largely of the "original equipment," with life expectancies of 25 to 50 years—many times what was originally



Workers from Paso Robles Heating and Air Conditioning install a modern heating and air-condition system as part of the reconstruction of a building in the Soldier Readiness Processing Center. The building was one of two reconstructed with the help of local contractors and opened earlier this year.

needed, but now well past what could ever have been reasonably expected of them. The electrical switching and distribution system, "state-of-the-art" and ahead of its time in 1941, now strains under the power demands made by equipment that had only been a science-fiction dream back then.

With the camp only being used for a few months of the year by units conducting their Annual Training and only occasional use by units during the rest of the year, these conditions, while perhaps annoying, could be dealt with.

But since the terror attacks of 9/11 and the growing need for the California National Guard to mobilize, train, and deploy to the fighting fronts of Global War on Terrorism, Camp Roberts has once again risen up to face the challenge.

And now occupied nearly continuously year-round by mobilizing soldiers and soldiers supporting the mobilizations, the camp is getting the "surgery" necessary to keep it healthy and running.

Over 13,000 feet of natural gas mains were replaced last year in the first, most urgent, installment in replacing the camp's gas distribution system, replacing cast iron piping that had all but disintegrated in some places.

This work was originally expected to produce significant savings by reducing the amount of gas lost to leaking lines. Now with the price of natural gas expected to nearly dou-

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In Fiscal Year 2003, local purchases totaling \$551,383 included these local businesses:

Paso Robles Truck Center  
Paso Robles Glass  
Paso Robles GMC  
Paso Robles Press  
Paso Robles Heating and Air Conditioning  
Paso Robles Safe and Lock  
Hamon Door  
Weyrick  
Idlers  
Bensers Chevron

The Tree Man  
Waynes Tire  
Staples  
Home Depot  
Walmart  
Hayward Lumber  
Western Janitor Supply  
Trophy Town  
Alliance Towing  
Big Creek Lumber  
The Blueprinter  
R&R Sport Center  
Nu Way  
Suburban Propane

Source: 2004 Camp Roberts Economic Impact Report

ble in the next few months as a result of Hurricane Katrina, "at least our gas bills won't be going up," says Brown.

Water and sewer lines and electrical distribution are being replaced or upgraded as work is being done to modernize troop billeting areas. Structural improvements, such as new floor tiles, improved energy-efficient lighting and heating systems, and improvements to bath facilities are also done.

To improve security at the Main Gate, DPW was heavily involved with the redesign of the Main Gate checkpoint, including installation of the new guard shack, installation of lighting, and placement of barricades, resulting in better control and inspection of vehicles entering the camp.

Still yet to come for DPW in its

immediate future: the modernization of the electrical switching station, virtually unchanged in its 65 years of 24/7 operation, and the removal of the camp's three former propane storage and distribution facilities. Brown said the old propane tanks, which were the camp's source of heating and cooking fuels before natural gas was brought to the camp and attached to the existing propane distribution grid, will be disconnected from the grid and taken to an outside company.

There, the tanks will be cut-up and the scrap metal reused, making it the camp's largest recycling project ever, according to Brown.

From the flood lights that light the airfield's windsock to the removal of propane storage tanks—big or small, Camp Roberts DPW does it all!

## Team Camp Roberts



Command Group and Directorate of Personnel and Resource Management



Dining Facility



Environmental Office



Directorate of Logistics



Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security



Mobilization Theater-Specific Individual Readiness Training Instructors



Directorate of Public Works

Mon-Fri 6-8  
Sat 6-3  
Sun 7-2

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# Small Towns with Big-City Heart: *Soldier Support in the North County*



Photo by Franco Federici

Santa Barbara Co. 4-H Youth Round Table members traveled to Camp Roberts in January to present \$1,500 in phone cards to CNG troops deploying overseas. Youth leader Linda Greco organized the project.

Compiled by Lisa Norris  
CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

It is sometimes as simple as a nod of acknowledgement and respect as they pass by. Other times, it is a proudly-expressed statement of appreciation and support that often spreads to others standing nearby. On occasion, it takes the form of a "random act of kindness" by a citizen who quietly picks-up the dinner tab of a soldier sitting at another table, leaving only a message with the waitress: "Thank you for your service." On more than one occasion the check for an entire table of soldiers totaling hundreds of dollars is covered.

And more than once, the citizens of the North County south of Camp Roberts have come together, united in their support of "The Troops," with events like the "Mother of All Barbeques" in 2003 and the "Welcome Home" parade and picnic for the 1498th Transportation Company in 2004.

Whether just here for training before their deployment to areas around the world or stationed at Camp Roberts to support them, the soldiers of the California National Guard have no doubt that the citizens of the North County neighboring Camp Roberts support them in a BIG way.



A solo sign of support along Highway 101 in San Miguel.



Paso Robles Wal-Mart manager Michelle Wilhoite, and associates, traveled to Camp Roberts to personally deliver goodie bags to California National Guard 1/185 Armor Brigade soldiers just back from Iraq.

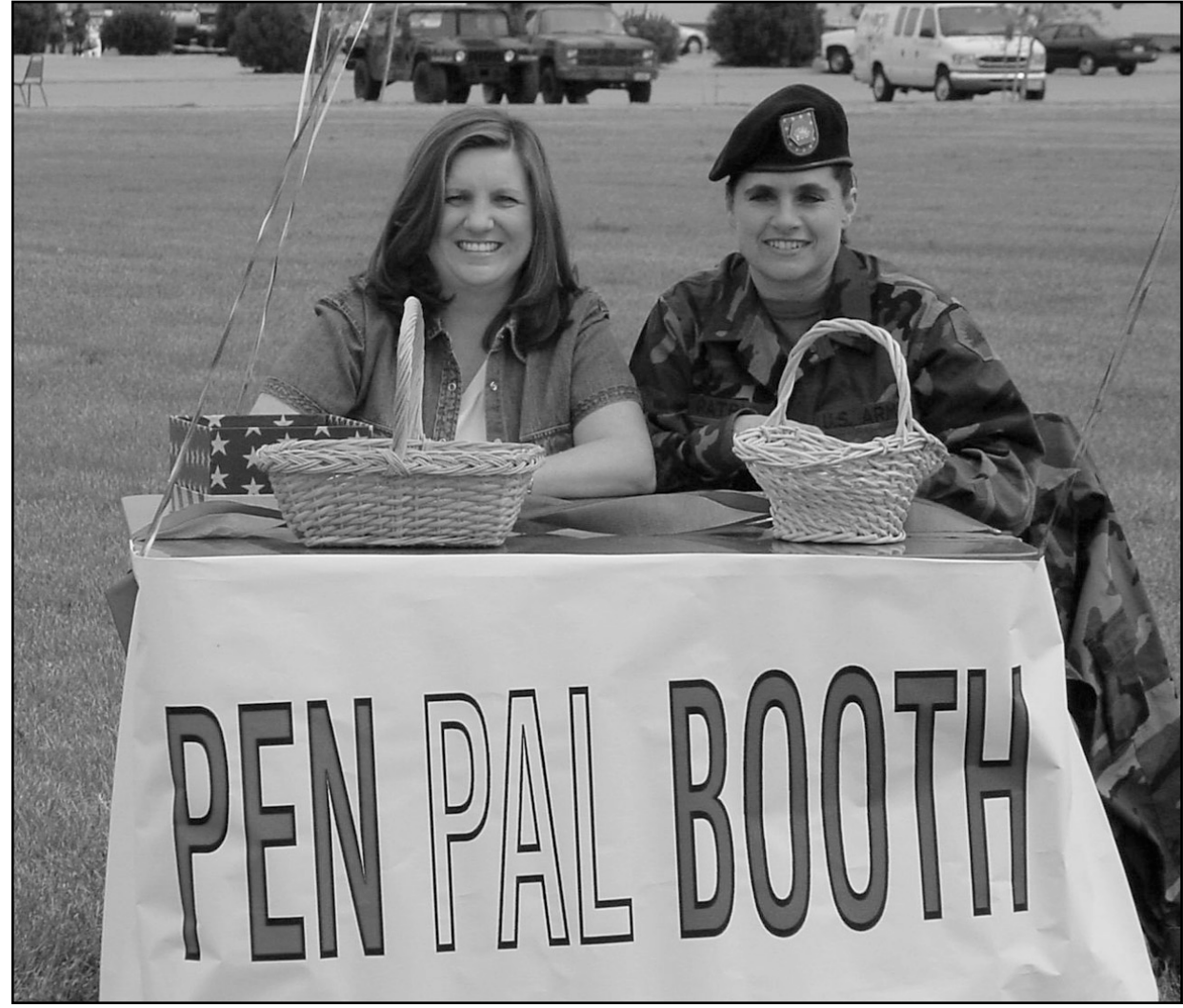


Photo by Franco Federici

Heidi Velasco and Debra Patrick, both North County residents, came up with a very popular booth at a farewell event at Camp Roberts.



Photo by Franco Federici

Jackie and Wally Nissen own several Taco Bells in the county. In February, the "Taco Bell Crew" set up a satellite store in an old mess hall and fed hundreds of the California National Guard 1/185 Armor Brigade demobilizing at Camp Roberts.



Photo by Franco Federici

In January, Girl Scout Troop 138 from Atascadero collected "donated" boxes of cookies to 'support the troops.' Members of the community purchased 52 boxes of cookies and at Camp Roberts the girls presented them to National Guard soldiers preparing to deploy to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Photo by Franco Federici

Lt. Col. Richard Martin, Commander of the 746th Combat Service Support Battalion, and Robbie Morse, 756th Transportation Company Family Support Coordinator, present a certificate of appreciation to Atascadero Albertson's manager Dan Guzman for the store's support of the company's Family Farewell party.



In March, Girl Scout Troop 514, from Paso Robles, delivered cookies to USAR troops heading to Iraq.

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## From Iraq With Love



Gary McMaster  
CAMP ROBERTS HISTORICAL MUSEUM

With so much Army emphasis on our current operations in Iraq, it's not surprising that it is a subject of current focus at the Camp Roberts Historical Museum.

During the first Gulf War, not many National Guard soldiers did their pre-deployment training at Camp Roberts. However, a Russian wheeled vehicle and a Chinese anti-aircraft gun, both captured from the Iraqis during that earlier conflict, found their way to the Museum. These impressive items, brought back with the help of California Guardsmen and State Military Reservists, still are a mainstay of the Museum's Gulf War exhibit.

In the present Operation Iraqi Freedom, the number of National Guard soldiers who have trained at Camp Roberts prior to being

deployed to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other locations in the Middle East region is enormous. Many of those soldiers, thankful of the important training received at the camp, also remember the Camp Roberts Museum. Several officers, Non-Commission Officers and enlisted soldiers have brought items back from Iraq or sent them directly from Iraq to the Museum. The exhibits they have engendered are a tribute to the sacrifices of those soldiers, just like all of the Museum's exhibits on World War II and the Korean War are tributes to the sacrifices to past generations.

The Main Museum houses an interesting exhibit on Operation Iraqi Freedom that includes mannequins of a current US Army soldier wearing desert camouflage and all his equipment, plus an Iraqi Republican Guard soldier in desert uniform replete with all of his personal field gear. In addition there is

a photo exhibit of soldiers performing their pre-deployment training as well as performing their duties in the Middle East, plus many artifacts brought back from Iraq. One unique display even includes small articles from Saddam Hussein's huge palace at the ancient city of Babylon.

In the Museum Annex (the WWII Camp Post Office) another mannequin equipped as an Iraqi Republican Guard soldier stands in a desert scene, armed with an AK-47 rifle. Various weapons charts, Iraqi flyers and other items direct from Iraq are tied in with the display. The Museum Gift Shop even offers visitors a chance to buy original surrender chits from the earlier Gulf War for a very nominal price.

So if you want to enjoy some of the Iraqi experience without getting shot at, go up and visit the Museum on a Thursday or Saturday, 9AM to 4PM. It won't even cost you a dime for the ride!



Courtesy of the Camp Roberts Museum

## Operation "We Care" Celebrates its One Year Anniversary

Kimberly Crawford Gorski  
PLANS AND MARKETING COORDINATOR,  
OPERATION READY FAMILIES

The California National Guard's Operation Ready Families Program (ORFP) understands the importance of support and accessibility for our military service members and their families. Due to the level of deployment, ORFP has established the Family Assistance Network (FAN), a group of coordinators located throughout California.

FAN Coordinators are available to answer questions as well as pass on essential information to families and their service members who are involved in any branch of the military.

The FAN also hosts once a month "We Care" meetings, covering topics from tax preparation and redeployment challenges to understanding your military benefits.

Founded in July of 2004 in Fresno by Bonnie Boggs and Sue Miguel, these meetings give service members and their families, friends and employers the opportunity to establish a local social support group as well as keep up to date on military news and benefits.

"Programs like [Operation We Care] really show our military community that the California National Guard is coming into the current

times. We are making positive changes," says Sue Miguel.

The Paso Robles branch of Operation We Care meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 240 Scott St.

The meeting, which is open to all branches of the service and military family members, offers participants a chance to receive the advice

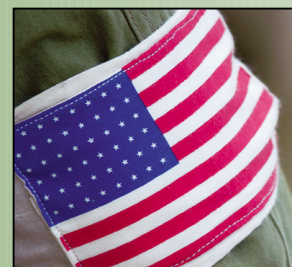
and support of people who know what they're going through.

If you'd like more information about Operation We Care meetings or have questions, you can contact Clair Ruffner at 896-4029 or by e-mail at [clair.ruffner@ca.ngb.army.mil](mailto:clair.ruffner@ca.ngb.army.mil).

Clair Ruffner, Camp Roberts FAN Coordinator, contributed to this article.



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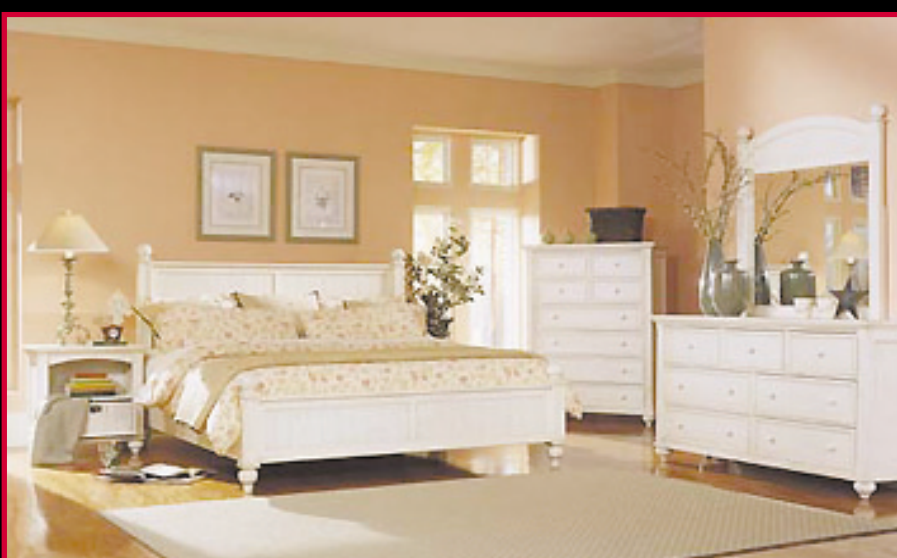
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